

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TERRY HAWES,

No. C 15-1580 WHA (PR)

Plaintiff,

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

v.

KELLY SIMMONS; JERRY  
BROWN,

Defendants.

**INTRODUCTION**

This is a pro se civil rights complaint filed by a California prisoner proceeding pro se under 42 U.S.C. 1983. He claims that the judge in his criminal trial violated his constitutional rights. For the reasons discussed below, the complaint is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* at 1915A(b)(1),(2).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not necessary; the statement need only "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests."" *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations omitted).

1 Although in order to state a claim a complaint “does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a  
2 plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than  
3 labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not  
4 do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative  
5 level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A  
6 complaint must proffer "enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face." *Id.*  
7 at 1974. Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901  
8 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

9 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:  
10 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2)  
11 that the violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v. Atkins*,  
12 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

### 13 **B. LEGAL CLAIMS**

14 Plaintiff claims that defendant Simmons, the judge at his criminal trial, violated his right  
15 to due process by finding him incompetent but later granting his request to proceed with his  
16 criminal proceedings pro se. He wants the judge and the Governor of California to pay him 25  
17 million dollars.

18 Plaintiff's claims are barred. The United States Supreme Court has held that to recover  
19 damages for an allegedly unconstitutional confinement, or for other harm caused by actions  
20 whose unlawfulness would render the confinement invalid, a plaintiff must prove that the  
21 judgment has been reversed on direct appeal, expunged by executive order, declared invalid by  
22 a state tribunal authorized to make such determination, or called into question by a federal  
23 court's issuance of a writ of habeas corpus. *Heck v. Humphrey*, 114 S. Ct. 2364, 2372 (1994).  
24 Plaintiff's success on his claims that the trial judge violated his right to due process in the  
25 course of his criminal trial would necessarily imply the invalidity of his resulting conviction,  
26 sentence and present commitment. Accordingly, plaintiff's claims are dismissed without  
27 prejudice until and unless his conviction is overturned or otherwise called into question. *See*  
28 *generally Alvarez-Machain v. United States*, 107 F.3d 696, 700-01 (9th Cir. 1997).


**CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set out above, this action is **DISMISSED** without prejudice.

The clerk shall enter judgment and close the file.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: June 1, 2015.

  
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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE